

Green Jobs Definitions Workgroup
Meeting Summary
May 11, 2009

Attendees:

Laura Coleman	California Community Colleges, Economic & Workforce Development, Centers of Excellence
Kathy Ely	Department of Community Services and Development
Elaine Gaertner	California Community Colleges, Economic & Workforce Development, Centers of Excellence
Bonnie Graybill	Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division
Jerry Hart	Air Resources Board
Brian McMahon	Employment Training Panel
Tim O'Connor	Environmental Defense Fund
Kimberley Petz	Department of Community Services and Development
Steve Saxton	Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID)
Emily Shoemaker	The Foundation for California Community Colleges

I. Introduction and Opening Remarks

Meeting participants were introduced. Ken Quesada and Javier Romero gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

II. Discussion - Background and Purpose

At the April 27th meeting the Green Collar Jobs Council (GCJC) Bonnie Graybill provided LMID's working definition of the Green Economy and asked the Council how it will define Green. She cited examples of green definitions from different organizations. It was agreed that the Green definition should be a 2-tier approach:

- Develop principles or values that have outcome-based language
- Give examples that address the principles or values. The basis would be LMID's working definition.

The Council asked that workgroup be convened to develop a matrix of green jobs/green economy definitions as a basis for discussion at their next meeting on May 21st. The GCJC would have the option to ask staff to develop a two-tiered definition statement for presentation as an action item at a subsequent meeting.

III. Discussion – Tier I – Value Statements

The workgroup discussed the various values/principles for green jobs/economy that could be included in the Tier I. These values would assist the Council in making decisions about the strategic investment of resources to develop a green workforce in California.

They included:

- A wage floor (e.g. median wage for region)
- Equity issues (gender, diversity, disability, age)
- Social justice
- Career advancement/career pathways
- Selections that will foster innovation in the long run
- Leveraging resources at the state, regional and local level
- Planning to reflect regional strengths
- Encouraging growth of small businesses and fostering entrepreneurship
- Transformation activities
- Creation of a culture shift; a change in community and personal norms

There was a further discussion of how the definitions would be used and the idea of creating an overarching “mission statement” with underlying principles to support the mission statement.

After much discussion, workgroup members were asked to forward any additional ideas to CWIB staff by the close of business on Wednesday May 13th. That information and what was discussed during the meeting would be put into a matrix and forwarded to the workgroup members for review and comment prior to presentation at the GCJC meeting on May 21st.

IV. Discussion – Tier II – Working Definition

Bonnie Graybill gave an overview of the G.R.E.E.N. definition developed by LMID. Bonnie clarified that G.R.E.E.N. was a production oriented/supply side definition and it will be used as a part of the survey of employers that will be undertaken over the upcoming months. LMID indicated that for their purposes, the definition will be in place until completion of their survey of the green economy, and would be modified if needed following analysis of survey responses.

Suggestions were made regarding additions or edits in each of the G.R.E.E.N. categories. For the purpose of the survey, it was also suggested that the opening sentence of the definition be edited to say: “A green or clean business or industry is a company that performs, as part of a core business function, an activity or service in at least one of the following:”

It was decided that CWIB would take the workgroup suggestions and create inclusion statements after each category that reflected those suggestions. That document would also be distributed to the workgroup for review and comment prior to the May 21st GCJC meeting.

V. Next Steps

- The Tier I and Tier II documents will be distributed to workgroup members for review and comment
- Final documents will be prepared and presented at the May 21st GCJC meeting
- If necessary, the workgroup will be reconvened to address the request from the Council regarding the definitions